The
Niagara Advance
www.niagaraadvance.ca
Thursday, December 15, 2016

NOTL Fire Chief Alex Burbidge to retire 16

Mistletoe Bride at Silversmith Brewery 34

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FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Bands were plentiful and the music was great in this year's NOTL Christmas Parade through the streets of the Old Town Saturday morning. The NOTL Fire Department volunteers were the honourary parade marshalls in honour of the 200th anniversary of the volunteer department.

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Councillors, staff get tax hike down to 2.5 per cent

SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

The fourth draft of the 2017 budget approved by Niagara-on-the-Lake council Monday has shaved another 3.2 per cent off the projected property tax increase from the last draft.

The tax hike, which was projected to be 13 per cent in first draft, now stands at 2.5 per cent. The municipal portion of the property tax bill for an average home assessed at $431,492 will be about $25 higher next year.

Staff were asked to look for further reductions after presenting a budget with a six per cent increase last week. Councillors discussed taking funds out of capital reserves, delaying hiring of six staff and removing or delaying various projects, but only $35,000 for surfacing of tennis courts was taken out of the budget.

The major budget changes presented by treasurer Brenda Garrett Monday are the reduction of the capital reserve from $2.5 million to $2.3 million and the $500,000 cost for street lighting will now be spread across urban and rural residents' tax bills. Most of the lighting costs were previously borne by urban property owners.

Garrett said another $50,000 was added to the budget for an expected increase in revenue from fees for subdivision and zoning applications. Some equipment purchases were downgraded or delayed until 2018 and a few improvements slated for recreational facilities were deferred until a facilities master plan has been completed.

A motion by Coun. Martin Mazza to revert back to charging urban and rural residents for street lighting in their own areas was narrowly defeated.

"We are one community," said Coun. Betty Disero. "Division of urban and rural areas is not appropriate."

Coun. Jamie King said the staff had achieved council's objective to find ways to lower the tax increase for 2017, despite council's approval of large funding increases to the library and the museum.

"We've just deferred the tax burden to future years," he said. "We have to own those decisions."

Three community groups -Bravo Niagara, the Yellow Door Theatre Project and a partnership between Eagle Valley Golf Club and Royal Oak Community School- that had been turned down for discretionary grant funding will now receive the money they requested. Disero pointed out that youth and children are priorities in the town's strategic plan and the $7,000 requested by the groups would be covered by an expected increase in parking revenues next year.

Another motion by Mazza to remove $20,000 in funding for Niagara College due to its operation of a males- only campus in Saudi Arabia was defeated.

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Council supports NPCA audit

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SUZANNE MASON
Special to the Advance

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is the latest municipality to ask the province to conduct a forensic audit of tbe Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Cindy Forster, NDP MP for Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Michael Welsh and St. Catharines resident Ed Smith asked council Monday to support the growing voices calling for an investigation of the agency.

"Transparency, trust and accountability are the cornerstones of our democracy," said Smith.

"These qualities are lacking right now at the NPCA."

Smith has issued a report critical of the agency called A Call for Accountability at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. It alleges conflicts of interest and questionable practices. The NPCA has threatened legal action against him for releasing the report.

In a motion drafted for Niagara-on-the-Lake council, Welsh said "serious questions have been raised about the financial and human resource management of the NPCA...and how effectively our natural environment is being protected."

Forster said Niagara municipalities contribute millions of dollars to the agency's operations and have a right to ask for an audit "to try to turn this agency around". She said a large number of employees have also lost their jobs over the past year.

Forster said another concern she has is about the make-up of the NPCA board, of which 13 of the 15 directors are politicians. She said the agency has lost the expertise of environmentalists who used to sit on the board.

She said she has support from other regional members of Queen's Park – St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley and Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates.

Councillors debated whether to ask the province for a forensic audit as requested by the delegation or a value-for-money investigation. They voted unanimously in favour of requesting a forensic audit of the NPCA's reports and operations over the past year.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte and Coun. Terry Flynn declared conflicts of interest. Darte sits on the board of the NPCA and Flynn is employed by Niagara Region.

Council's request will be forwarded to Premier Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Kathryn McGarry and to the province's auditor general Bonnie Lysyk.

A motion at a Niagara regional council calling for an NPCA audit in May was defeated, but St. Catharines city council and the Township of Wainfleet recently voted in favour of asking the province for an investigation.

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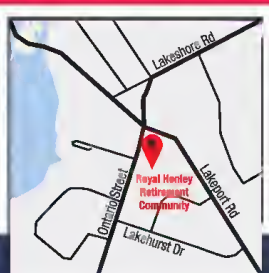

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NOTL fire chief says it's time to retire

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Fire Chief Alex Burbidge is retiring from the Niagara-on-the-Lake fire department following a career that began in King City as a volunteer firefighter and spanned 40 years in public service.

Burbidge came to NOTL five years ago from the Vaughan fire department, where he was platoon chief.

During his tenure here, he has overseen a number of projects, said a press release from the Town, including celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the Niagara-on-the-Lake volunteer department; revamping, reorganizing and equipping the High Angle Rescue Team; purchasing new equipment; recruiting and training 40 new volunteer firefighters; updating the Town's emergency plan; and contributing to the Town's Health and Safety Committee.

"I've been in public service for a long time," said Burbidge. "I'm ready for a break."

He and his wife Holly have purchased a camper, and they're looking forward to travelling, although she is still working as a firefighter in Brampton - she has a couple of years left before she retires.

The trips they're planning won't be short ones - they hope to visit Newfoundland, and the west coat of Canada and the U.S., including Alaska, said Burbidge.

"I've been really blessed to work here, and I've enjoyed every minute of it. But there definitely comes a time when you know it's time to retire. It's time for the young people to step up."

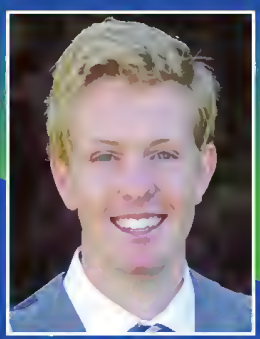
He hasn't set a departure date, expecting to work for several months on a smooth transition once his successor is found.

He hopes to have time to show the next fire chief the ropes, go over budgets, talk about what is planned for the future and introduce him to the station chiefs he will be working with every day.

After that, he said, "I'm looking forward to getting a fair bit of my life back," and also to working around the house, including landscaping, a project he hasn't found time for yet.

"It is with regret that we accept Alex's resignation, however we wish him all the best in his retirement," said Lord Mayor Pat Darte.

"Chief Burbidge has served this community well and we will be forever indebted to him for his professionalism and work in establishing one of the best fire and emergency services department in the region."



Announcement

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Alyce te Bokkel

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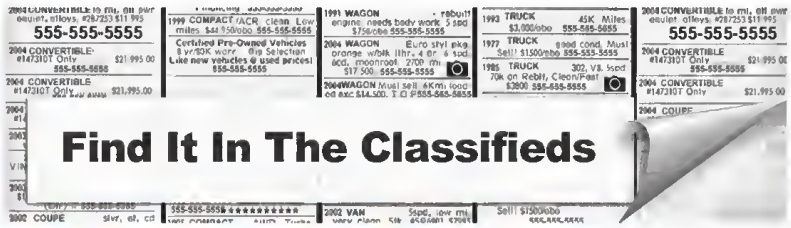

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Switch to LED bulbs saves money and the environment

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Phil's val-mart in Virgil is looking brighter, and with good reason.

Franchise owner Phil Leboudec just spent $32,000 to replace about 100 fluorescent tubes in his store with LED lighting. The total cost was $40,000, offset by an $8,000 incentive cheque from Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro,.

The outlay to replace the bulbs, including display case and outdoor lighting, was a substantial investment, said Leboudec, but when Paul Wemple of Think Green Solutions provided him with an audit that showed projected savings, "I had my eyes opened."

Leboudec "was very forward-thinking" in making the decision, said Wemple.

TURN TO PAGE 14

Dennis Devey and Paul Wemple of Think Green Solutions, Phil Leboudec of Phil's valu-mart, Cal Graham of Graham Lighting, who did the replacement work, and Brodie Mosher of NOTL Hydro recognize the value of converting to LED bulbs at the Virgil grocery store.

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The Niagara Advance

Angus Scott regional editor
Penny Coles Editor

Point of View

Refugees deserve continued federal support

The deadline known as "Month 13" is coming -- or has already -- for some of the Syrian refugees now in Canada.

The expression refers to the date when federal government support, which lasts 12 months, runs out for many of the 17,627 government-sponsored refugees who were welcomed into Canada in 2015 and 2016.

Though provincial governments will provide help for those unable to support themselves, in many cases it's not as generous. The City of Ottawa estimates that 40 per cent of government-sponsored refugees there will end up on social assistance.

Privately sponsored refugees have done better, but they could face a rocky transition, as their sponsors' obligation to help ends once the refugees have been here a year. Sen. Jim Munson, who chaired the Senate committee looking into resettlement, said not everyone can spend thousands year over year on the Syrians they supported. "You will find people moving towards the social-welfare system in each province," he predicts.

For Ottawa's 1,998 Syrian refugees, for example, the biggest worry is housing, says Louisa Taylor, director of Ottawa's Refugee613. If the lower rental rates negotiated with landlords when refugees arrived are no longer available, or if refugees suddenly see a drop in income, families may have to move.

In a report released last week, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights said the federal government must continue to support refugees as they integrate. Government-assisted refugees are the most vulnerable; for example, 60 per cent of privately sponsored refugees have English-language skills, compared to just 10 per cent among government refugees.

The committee wasn't assured the money from the provinces will match what the federal government has given. Social assistance rates, Taylor notes, are lower than sponsorship funding has been.

It was the federal Liberals' idea to bring in almost 36,000 Syrians in a short time period. Laudable as that was, they can't justify offloading so much responsibility to the provinces at Month 13. "The majority of refugees are not ready to be financially independent after one year," says Taylor.

Housing subsidies would be one way to keep helping, alongside extending federal assistance on a case-by-case basis.

The Senate report makes a dozen recommendations, on everything from domestic violence education to family reunification to more language training.

Canada did the right thing opening its arms to the refugees; let's keep it up for longer than a year.

Do you remember?

Paul Albrechtsen always had the most elaborate and wonderful Christmas decorations in the Niagara Home Bakery store window on Queen Street. The bakery had previously been run by James MacPhee and family until the mid-30s when the Albrechtsens purchased it. Paul's parents ran it for many years, after which their two sons Paul and John carried on. After Paul died John and his sister Diana kept it on for some time, eventually selling the business.
Photo from the collection of Jim Smith

Letters to the Editor

COUNCILLORS NEED TO LEARN TO SAY NO

Re: Property Tax Increase (Niagara Advance, Dec. 8)

I have read with incredulity the comments from members of the NOTL council concerning the possibility of a 13 per cent increase in property taxes then working to cut this down to a 6 per cent increase probably to make the taxpayer feel like they are getting a break.

I have to put this whole issue into the "You Have Gotta Be Kidding Me" category. With the additional property tax fees from the seemingly uncontrolled suburban sprawl in the St. David's/Virgil areas not to mention the number of residences that have gone up in the past year along Niagara Stone Road, plus the much promised income in the town's revenue from the Glendale outlet mall, I have to question why any increase should be necessary at all.

I do recognize that there are costs that cannot be controlled; however, is part of the problem the inability of council to say no to groups that want increases in funding beyond the cost of living rate of about 1.6 percent.

I know that this will not happen as it is not in councillors' best interests to say "there is no more money" to constituents but there should be few instances where funding is authorized beyond the level of our now minor pension increases. I acknowledge that there is little that the average tax payer can do about this right now as council will put in place whatever increase it wants.

G.C. ALLDRIDGE

Christmas tree makes great bird feeder

The north wind shall blow, And we shall have snow, And what will poor Robin do then, Poor thing? He'll sit in a barn, To keep himself warm, And hide his head under his wing. Poor thing. (Anonymous).

And indeed, the north winds are blowing, and the birds are showing up at the feeders again. They all seemed to be vacationing in November, but they're back and looking for treats. By January, they really will need some help.

Somewhere (exactly where I cannot say) on my internet trolling this week, I read of a unique idea which combines recycling and feeding the birds. After you have finished with your Christmas tree, take it outside and set it up in your yard somewhere close to a window where you can watch the action. Anchor it so that it doesn't blow over in the wind. Then 'decorate' your tree with seed decorations made from cookie cutters. Some can be made with a suet base, others with gelatin and you can also hang small branches of berries if you have some, for instance, holly or pyrocanthus berries. If you have children or grandchildren, this could be an ideal winter afternoon activity.

For the gelatin-based decorations, the ingredients are 2/3 cup of boiling water, 2 packets of gelatin, 2 cups of birdseed. You will need cookie cutters of any shape (I particularly like the idea of cats, but I have a peculiar sense of humour), parchment or waxed paper, twine and straws cut into 2-3 inch pieces – depends how deep your cookie cutters are.

In a saucepan, add the boiling water to the gelatin, keeping the heat on simmer, stir thoroughly until gelatin has solidified a bit. Take off the heat, then add 2 cups of mixed birdseed. Stir well until all the gelatin water has been incorporated. Spoon the mixture into the cutters and press down well. When the cutter has been patted down and leveled with the top of the cutter, make a hole with the straw where you want the twine to be.

Place the cutters on a tray with parchment paper, and place in the fridge for a couple of hours. Then leave on a table to dry overnight. Turn once or twice so both sides dry equally.

The next day, carefully press out the 'bird' cookies and remove the straw. Thread a piece of twine through the hole and you're ready to hang them on the tree.

For the suet treats, mix a cup of seeds with some added treats – raisins or cranberries. Heat two tablespoons of lard (any drippings, such as bacon fat, beef or pork will also do well, but put the oil through a sieve to eliminate impurities) and two tablespoons of peanut butter.

This is messy but mix well and put the mixture into a wire basket or you can try the cookie cutters. If using a cutter, use the straw pieces to make hanging holes. Or you can use hollowed-out grapefruit or orange halves as your holder. These will have to be removed after the seeds have been eaten. Also add to the tree some seed pods from your garden, and coloured twine bows. If the tree makes it to the spring, the twine can be left around for nest making.

Who know if this will work? It will probably be one ungodly mess by spring, but it might be amusing and you don't really care what your garden looks like in February. By spring it will be easy to chop up the tree and recycle it once again.

Here are a few other things you could add to the seed packets in future months: apple cores and seeds after pie-making, berries too soft for picky people as long as they're not moldy, scraps of leftover bread, leftover bits and pieces of cheese, cookie crumbs, cracker crumbs, odds and ends of dried fruit.

This article began with a poem, and since apple season is just behind us, I felt like ending with a poem, by Kim Thuy:

A fine hanging apple
in love with your stone,
the perfect throw that
clips my stem

A good poem always slows the mind, then opens it.

Letters to the Editor

NO PEACE FROM BIRD BANGERS

This is the season of peace, giving and joy. I can't have peace as my neighbours aren't giving it right now.

There is no peace in this neighbourhood because of the age-old complaint of bird cannons, or as some say, bird bangers. They are very loud and every three minutes, three loud bangs echo across the air from sun up to sunset. My ears hurt when I am outside.

I need to have either the radio or TV up loud to distract me from the bangs which are still heard despite this effort. On our road we have children waiting for school buses, dogs that are outside and several greenhouse workers that have to listen to this intruding sound. It is cruel and inhumane that the rest of the neighbours have to listen to this so that the grape growers don't lose their profits.

Our family has owned and lived on our property for almost 45 years. The last 10 years bird bangers have disturbed the quiet countryside. If I owned the grapes there would be no disturbances as I would try my best to figure out another way of keeping birds away.

I believe in peace and goodwill at this time of year and all year long. I guess some people don't.

JANICE NICKEL

NEWS FROM TOWN HALL NOT SO GOOD

Am I the only one to think that most of the news coming out of the Virgil council offices this year has been far from good? If you were to read Pat Darte's highlights of 2016, on the opposite page, you might think that everything in the garden was lovely. However nearly every week we are struck by stories poorly behaved councillors and staff who just do not seem to cope. This is a lovely town to live in and we are very lucky to do so.

But if you look at the shenanigans going on in Virgil, it just does not add up. Try taking in the "leaving" of the CAO after six months surrounded in the sort of secrecy that would make the CIA proud. We are quite obviously not going to get any sort of explanation as to what happened, how much did it cost us the taxpayers, etc. etc. We will never know! Is this open government?

And now the budget. The staff (the 'smart' ones according to the Niagara Advance Point of View, Dec. 8) came with a proposal for a 13 percent increase. How 'smart' was that? After heated debate, the increase was reduced to 6 percent. How? By moving money from reserves, spending a little of the parking revenue, and deferring projects. A delay in hiring six new staff was rejected by councillors. And, remember, that inflation in Canada is still running at below 2 percent. One of the biggest expenses is salaries, but apparently we cannot do anything about that. The voters have no choice but to pay up.

The taxpayers have few expectations. Do we want to maintain existing services and a few extra items every year? If this is to be the cost, then no thank you. And what happened to all that money that the town were going to earn from massive developments, from the new retail park at White Oaks, new wineries, and an enormous increase in the housing stock?

Can someone up in Virgil put their heads above the parapet and explain themselves? We will have to wait until the next elections to voice our concerns. Let us vote them all out. No councillor should be allowed to run more than two terms. Let us have a whole new council, more youngsters. Let them become masters of the staff, and the staff servants to the councillors.

Merry Christmas.

PETER BARWELL

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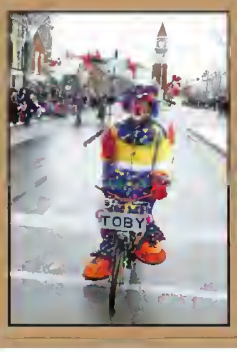
Santa comes to town



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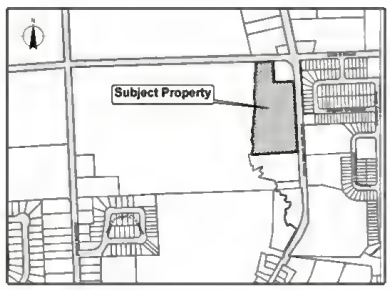
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Four Mile Creek Road @ Line 9 Road - Draft Plan of Subdivision, Draft Plan Condominium & Zoning By-law Amendments

PROPOSED CHANGE
The proposal is to permit plans of subdivision and condominium which will include 18 single-detached dwelling units, 36 townhouse dwelling units and 2 semi-detached dwelling units.



HAVE YOUR SAY
The public meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to make representation in respect to a planning application. A decision on the application(s) will not be made at the Public Meeting. Input can be given by speaking at the Public Meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

PUBLIC MEETING
Date: January 9, 2017
Time: 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter
Place: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake,
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION
To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information, please contact Jesse Auspitz at 905-468-3266, extension 258 or jauspitz@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

Section 34 & 51 of the Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submission to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town Council in respect to this matter, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 15th day of December 2016.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTATIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REPEAL DESIGNATING BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to repeal Designating By-law 3406-99 for **97 MELROSE DRIVE, IRONWOOD**, a by-law that designates 97 Melrose Drive in the municipality of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Any person may, not later than the 14th of January, 2017, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake notice of their objection to the repeal of the Designating By-law, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If such a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

To request additional information, including the Designating By-law, please contact Community & Development Services staff at the Town Municipal Offices at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 15th day of December, 2016.
Holly Dowd, Town Clerk

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OVERNIGHT PARKING BY-LAW

As the winter season approaches, please be advised that regular enforcement of the Town's By-law regarding overnight parking has commenced and will continue until April 2017.

By-law 4308-09 states that no vehicle shall be parked on a Town or Regional road between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

This By-law is in effect year round, regardless of weather conditions, however, levels of enforcement change during the winter months. A violation of this By-law is subject to a minimum fine of $40.

PHOTOS BY FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The snow added the perfect touch to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade Saturday morning, as more than 100 entries, including bands, floats from local schools, service organizations and businesses, kids, clowns and animals made their way through the streets of the Old Town, with Santa Claus making his appearance to the delight of the crowds gathered to see him.

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Season's Greetings
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St. Catharines 100 Fourth Ave. 905-682-6328
Niagara Falls 6225 Thorold Stone Rd. 905-354-0186
Grimsby 36 Main St. E. 905-945-9400
Welland 30 Rice Rd. 905-735-6819

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Artificial rink at Fort George 'coolest place in town'

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

Parks Canada thinks the outdoor skating rink at Fort George is the coolest place in town.

It certainly boasts lots to back up the claim, offering free skating seven days a week, a building with a concession stand where skates can be rented, hot chocolate and other treats to enjoy around the fire pits, chairs and bales of straw providing seating, and twinkling lights and decorated trees to contribute ambience to a great outdoors experience.

Thanks to Vintage Hotels, the skating rink has been built with chillers, so the ice will stay frozen in temperatures up to 15 degrees Celsius - it's expected to last into March.

Lisa Curtis, superintendent of historic sites, says Vintage presented them with the concept last summer, and Parks Canada thought it was a great idea.

This will be the first Parks Canada site with an artificial rink, she said, offering an opportunity for families and visitors to get some exercise and have fun throughout the winter.

It will be a great way to attract people to the fort during the off-season, and offers opportunities to host other events, such as the Ugly Holiday Sweater Skating Party this Saturday, Dec. 17 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be a contest with prizes for the ugliest sweater, and an opportunity for photos with Santa, said Curtis.

Bob Jackson, CEO for Vintage Hotels, says the plan is to operate the 120 foot by 60 foot rink "as long as we can, hopefully to March Break - upwards of three months."

Then it gets rolled up and stored until next season.

"It was a substantial investment," he said, "but it made sense for us."

Vintage Hotels also purchased new skates to rent to visitors, in sizes for adults and children, and will operate that and the concession stand inside the Agora, a new building at the Fort.

CONTINUED > PAGE 11

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THE NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW | The Standard | THE TRIBUNE

Rink a great addition to town for families, mayor says

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 10

Revenue generated from skate rental will be donated to charity, he said.

The rink will be open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m, allowing down time to maintain the ice.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte, who tried to bring the Rink on the Brink to Simcoe Park when the tourist attraction closed in Niagara Falls, said he's "ecstatic" to see this addition to town.

"I think it's going in exactly the right direction this town wants to go - visitors might use the rink, but I think it's going to be used mainly by local families," he said.

"This is really something exciting. Our winters are getting better and better. Parks Canada and Vintage Hotels are to be commended for a great partnership."

Lisa Curtis of Parks Canada, Lord Mayor Pat Darte and Bob Jackson of Vintage Hotels cut the ribbon on an artificial skating rink at Fort George. The rink opens to the public Friday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m., with an ugliest sweater contest Saturday evening.

He urged residents to visit it in the evening for the full experience.

"It looks really special when it's lit up at night," he said.

It opens to the public Friday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m.

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33 Shakespeare Ave. $485,000
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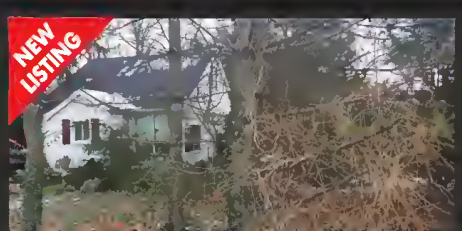
Perry Quinn* 905-468-4214

24 Sandalwood Cr, St Davids $1,290,000
4,200 sq ft, 4 bedroom home. Online at 24Sandalwood.com
Helen Mosca * 905-650-5669
Aaron Cherney * 905-401-7915

10 Firelane 12a $1,795,000
Enjoy unobstructed lake views & magnificent sunsets on this rare waterfront property in NOTL. Custom built, this elegant 4000 sq ft home sits on 1.5 acres with salt water pool and beautifully landscaped Lake Ontario shoreline.
Kevan** & James* O'Connor 905-468-7700



3 Wesley St. $415,000
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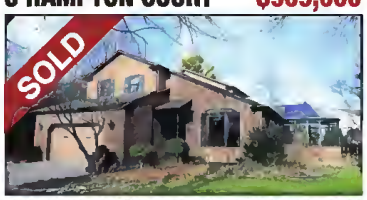
285 DORCHESTER (LOT) $799,000

A rare 117 x 211 foot treed lot in a quiet cul de sac in the old town of Niagara on the Lake within easy walking distance of the golf course and main street. **MLS#30550966 Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft.**

3 HAMPTON COURT $969,000



Fabulous location in Old Town, situated on a Cul de Sac two blocks from the golf course and Lake Ontario 2400 sq. ft. plus finished basement which features a professionally built, climate controlled Wine Cellar. Offering 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms plus a conservatory, Separate living and dining rooms and a main floor open concept family room and kitchen. .38 Acre pie shaped lot **MLS 30550534. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

81 SCOTT STREET #305 $209,000

Spacious and bright 1 bedroom condo in well maintained Meadowvale Green offers great on-site amenities and convenient lifestyle close to shops, transportation and QEW. **MLS 30545240. Sarah Gleddie**

50 FIRELANE 11A $2,695,000

Truly a home for all seasons, this water front estate commands panoramic sunsets and stunning views of the Toronto Skyline. This remarkable light-filled residence has been cleverly designed with all four sides showcasing splendid and varied views. Features include grand fireplaces, character wood paneling, French doors and expansive windows. The home is surrounded by lush multilevel gardens accented by rock walls and wooded areas, gazebo, inlet for launching and full shoreline protection. **MLS 30537334. Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft.**

263 REGENT STREET $859,000

Wonderful historic gem! Circa 1820. Located within walking distance to the Lake, theatres, restaurants and shopping. 2010 sq. ft. of beautifully appointed space; 4 bedrooms, 4 ensuite bathrooms all of which have been tastefully remodeled. This home would make an exquisite personal residence although for the past twelve years has been an extremely successful Bed and Breakfast. **MLS 30543773. Chris Bowron or Audrey Wright.**

709 LAKESHORE ROAD $1,395,000

Fully updated Century home situated on a private 3 acre property. Features include open concept principal rooms, breakfast nook, character wood trim and brick fireplace. This unique home offers a tranquil setting on a treed lot with a creek, a 54 x 30 barn/garage and a horse paddock. **MLS 30547319. Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

578 WARNER ROAD $1,550,000

A truly unique property located on the St. David's escarpment on a quiet rural cu-de-sac. This private Austrian style estate comprises approximately 6,500 square feet of living space set in over 5 acres of park-like grounds including a massive stream fed pond. The construction of this home took decades and the painstaking attention to detail can be seen in its wealth of master brickwork and wood carving throughout both the interior and exterior. There are numerous possibilities for this property due to its character, size and layout. **MLS 30547332 Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.**

6 SETTLERS COURT $809,000

Located in Old Town Niagara on the Lake, this one and half storey brick home offers main floor living with 2 bedrooms, and bathrooms, upstairs for visiting guests. Very private back yard with apple trees and a wonderful large covered patio, great for entertaining. The main floor has the master bedroom with updated bathroom, front sitting room (or large office), family room with wood burning fireplace, formal dining room and a large eat in kitchen with easy access to the back patio. **MLS#30544215 Trish Badham**

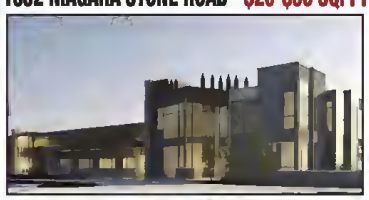
137 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $629,000

A one of a kind home in much desired St Davids, excellent access to Niagara-on-the-lake, Niagara Falls, 3 golf courses. Fondly known as the grist mill, at 1762, it offers a [illegible] with modern renovations. **MLS#30546518. Cheryl Carmichael, Randy Armstrong.**

927 CONCESSION 5 RD $649,000

Located in rural NOTL minutes to town, solid split level home across from vineyards. 6.2 acres of prime soil. Features hardwood floors, granite counter. California shutters throughout with a new roof, 1500 sq. ft. workshop and lower level apartment for rental income. A must see! **MLS 30537409. Philip Bowron.**

1882 NIAGARA STONE ROAD $20-$30 SQ. FT



Space for lease in brand new medical building in a highly visible and central location. This approximately 14,000 sq. ft. build is an expansion to existing medical offices and pharmacy that are already well-established. Proposed spaces are for doctor's offices, lab areas, x-ray clinic, eye clinic, physio, chiropractic, dialysis clinic, and endocrinology clinic. Landlord is flexible to various sized units and configurations to accommodate tenants needs. For more information please contact **Thomas Elltoft 905-380-8012**

7 TOTTENHAM COURT $775,000

This lovely brick home in desirable Garrison Village is an oasis of comfort, privacy and mature landscaped gardens. Renovations and upgrades include hardwood floors, a designer kitchen, large mudroom, and an elegant master bedroom with 5 piece bath and customized walk-in closet. Plenty of space for family, friends and entertaining. **MLS 30546412 Colleen Blake.**

Broker, Christopher Bowron***	905-468-2269	Trish Badham*	905-282-1878	Kevin Stokes*	905-988-3222
Victoria Bolduc*	905-941-3728	Viviane Elltoft*	905-468-2142	Colleen Blake*	905-328-8799
Philip Bowron*	905-348-7828	Thomas Elltoft*	905-380-8012	Christine Bruce*	905-328-9703
Bonnie Grimm*	905-468-1256	Cheryl Carmichael*	905-941-0276	Marilyn Francis**	905-932-1266
Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011	Sarah Gleddie*	905-685-2458	Linda Williams*	647-201-2889
Randall Armstrong**	905-851-2977	Phyllis Henderson*	905-932-2589		
Audrey Wright*	289-241-0212	Robert Wilkinson*	905-380-3851		

**** Broker of Record ** Broker * Sales Representative*

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Franchise owner 'reaping rewards already'

TURN FROM PAGE 5

"A lot of corporations take three or four years to make a decision."

Leboudec, who has had the LED lights for about a month, says he is reaping the rewards already, and not just on his utility bill.

His staff members tell him they're not experiencing the usual mid-afternoon drowsiness they felt with the yellow light of the fluorescent tubes.

"These lights provide energy - they don't suck the energy out of employees like the others did," says Leboudec.

Customers are more likely to notice the store looks different, without knowing exactly why, he said.

Dennis Devey, vice-president of Think Green, says the LED lights are also easier on the environment - they will last eight times longer, don't contain mercury, and are easier to dispose of. They also don't cause heat loss in refrigeration units, he says.

And the new lights are safer - they are shatter-proof plastic, so there is no danger of breakage when changing them, he added.

Leboudec expects to save 124,619 kilowatt hours a year - enough to pay back his investment in about a year and a half.

Brodie Mosher of NOTL Hydro said the job of the local utility is to confirm the savings, which he did, and based on a provincial formula, was able to further reassure Leboudec he was making the right choice by presenting him with the $8,000 rebate.

The biggest plus, said Leboudec, is having hydro savings to balance rising food prices.

The margin for profit in groceries has been declining - increased food costs don't benefit the retailer, he said.

"The perception is that rising prices mean more profit. That couldn't be further from the truth. Our margins are getting slimmer and slimmer."

Food costs, wages and utilities are all rising, he said, and the greatest challenge to a food retailer is to balance that.

Part of his motivation to make the switch to LED was spending money to save money years down the road, he said.

By cutting down on costs such as hydro, "we're not positioning ourselves to be more profitable. We're positioning ourselves to survive."

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In non-emergency situations, YOUR FIRST OPTION should be your family doctor or nurse practitioner.

Other options include:

- Walk-in clinics
- Visit Healthcare Options at **www.ontario.ca/healthcareoptions** to search for a healthcare provider near you
- Call Telehealth 1-866-797-0000 for health advice and information from a registered nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Call 211 for information and services about healthcare in Niagara

For medical emergencies: Call 9-1-1 immediately or go to the nearest Emergency Department.
General healthcare options: www.niagarahealth.on.ca/options

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- Serious injury
- Mental health issues

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- Sprains, strains, sports injuries
- Minor asthma attacks or allergic reactions

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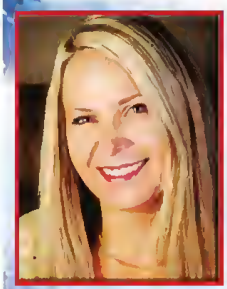
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All-Canadian line-up for one-day summer music festival

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

As Canada commemorates its 150th birthday, Niagara-on-the-Lake will be celebrating with a one-day music festival headlining City and Colour, with Blue Rodeo, the Strumbellas, Stars and Dear Rouge sharing the Butler's Barracks stage.

The event will be hosted by Wayne and Daryl from the Canadian sitcom Letterkenny.

The concert, to be held Sunday, July 2, is being organized by Dine Alone Records, an independent Canadian label that produced City and Colour's latest release, and AEG Live, a California-based concert promoter that staged tbe first two major concerts in NOTL, Tragically Hip in 2012 and City and Colour in 2013.

Lisa Curtis of Parks Canada, which leases the venue to the concert promoters, says she will be working with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, the Town of NOTL and AEG to ensure residents' concerns are heard and any problems mitigated.

Concerts such as the upcoming event help raise money for NOTL historic sites, she says. With the lease of the property bringing in about $60,000 per concert, more than $200,000 from past events has gone toward electrical services at Butler's Barracks, and two studies which were commissioned to look at refurbishing the Barracks and stabilizing and strengthening the surrounding ground surfaces.

But in addition to the financial support of heritage sites, such events provide opportunities to attract first-time visitors who will learn about the nation's history and perbaps come back for future visits, says Curtis.

"Especially with Canada's 150th, people have a more heightened awareness of their history and visiting historic sites," she said.

Parks Canada, she added, is doing everything possible to connect people with their historic sites.

Curtis says she is committed to holding a public meeting leading up to the concert to listen to residents and find solutions to their concerns

Elliott Lefko of AEG was involved in the planning of the first two concerts at Butler's Barracks, and says he is delighted to be back in NOTL for this summer's event.

POSTMEDIA FILE PHOTO
City and Colour will perform at Butler's Barracks at a July 2 music festival.

CONTINUED > PAGE 17

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www.wellsofhope.com
Wells of Hope is a Charitable Organization with Registration Number 83428 1768 RR0001

Concert promoter determined to make 'three-peat' best yet

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 16

"I love doing shows in NOTL," he said, but in this instance, City and Colour frontman Dallas Green, a St. Catharines native, approached him and said he bad sucb a great time doing the 2013 show he wanted to come back for the 150th celebrations.

"The two shows I've done in NOTL were both successful," says Lefko, "and this is the kind of show that works well with the demographics. Butler's Barracks is a really pretty site, one of the prettiest in Canada to do a concert, with the grass ringed by trees, and such a picturesque setting. You don't have that in a lot of places, and the setting is a really strong draw."

It also helps that NOTL is close enough to Toronto to attract the urban crowd, he added.

City and Colour chose the Canadian bands to share the stage, and it's a great line-up, says Lefko, who spoke of the "three-peat" for AEG as a concert that will be even better than past successes, with an aim to sell about 20,000 tickets.

"I feel like I learned a lot from the last two. I was a good citizen, I listened to people's requests, and put on good concerts. Moving forward, we want to make it even better," he said, mentioning better food, better attractions on site and especially better parking and plans to move concert-goers out of the area quickly.

"We'll be working with Parks Canada to accomplish those goals," said Lefko.

"We've already got a really good reputation. We want to make sure this show and any we do in the future are shows the community can be proud of."

Achievements of City and Colour include three Juno awards, including two for songwriter of the year, and several platinum and gold albums in Canada.

Blue Rodeo emerged in the early 80s as a countrified rock band and set in motion a three-decade long career. The band was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2012 and received a Governor General's Performing Arts Award in 2014.

The Strumbellas chart-topping single, Spirits, hit the airwaves in January, 2016, reaching #1 on several radio charts, and is one of the top-10 most streamed rock songs of 2016 worldwide.

Stars is a Montreal band that debuted with Nightsongs in 2001, and Dear Rouge is a Juno-award winning Vancouver-based rock band formed in 2012.

Tickets and VIP packages for this all-ages event go on sale Friday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. at ticketmaster.ca.

General admission tickets are $69.50 plus service fees. A limited number of VIP tickets will be available at $99.50 plus service fees, and include access to a VIP area with main stage viewing, VIP bar with premium beverage service, shaded area, premium food vendors, VIP washrooms, and fastpass VIP entry.

All tickets will be available at all Ticketmaster outlets, ticketmaster.ca or call 1-855-985-5000.

Gates for the event will open at 2 p.m.

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2371 Barton St. E. at Kenora, Hamilton
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On The Mountain
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AD EFFECTIVE FROM DEC 16TH TO DEC 22ND

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(1/4 mile east of Red Hill Valley Pkwy)
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On The Mountain
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4167 Victoria Ave.
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Mon-Fri 8am - 7:30pm
Saturday 8am - 6pm
Sunday 8am - 6pm

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Gifts from the Heart help special needs kids

Red Roof Retreat is offering an opportunity to give a gift this Christmas and feel good about it, with their sixth annual Gifts from the Heart holiday campaign.

Funds raised help provide another year of respite and recreational programs for children and young adults with special needs in the Niagara Region.

In 2011, Arthur Dalfen established a successful gift-matching challenge, which evolved into the Gifts from the Heart fundraiser. At that time, the goal was to turn $10,000 into $20,000, but when it ended up raising $60,000, they decided to keep it going. The following year it was re-launched as the Gifts from the Heart Campaign and continued with the same goal of $60,000.

Red Roof now provides support to 150 children and young adults throughout Niagara Region, and fundraising helps keep programs affordable for special needs families, with a goal of sustaining current programs and decreasing wait-list times, developing new programs and identifying needs to reach more children and adults and supporting special needs families by continuing to provide safe, secure care at their 'home away from home,' says special events co-ordinator Claire Ellsworth

To donate, visit the Red Roof wwebsite at www.redroofretreat.com/gifts-fromtheheart/ or call the office at 289-868-9800.

"Every donation large or small helps Red Roof to continue to improve our programs and serve more families," says Ellsworth. "Throughout Niagara there are more than 3,500 families with special needs."

For more information on Red Roof Retreat visit www.redroofretreat.com

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This package includes:
(1) Denon AVR-X1300 AV Receiver
(2) Definitive Technology BP 111 Tower Speakers
(2) Pro Monitor 1000 Bookshelf Speakers
(1) Pro Center 2000 Center Channel

24 EQUAL PYMNTS $83.33* — SAVE $2000 — $1999.99

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System Includes
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- (2) -Sony SSCS3 Floorstanding Speaker
- (1) -Sony SSCS6 Center Channel Speaker
- (1) -Sony SSCS5 Bookshelf Speakers
- (1) -Sony SACS9 Powered Subwoofer

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- Full CINEMA Screen - Blade Slim
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- OLED HDR with Dolby Vision™
- Perfect Black Level
- Sound by harman/kardon 40W 2.0 Channel
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- Samsung KS8000 Series TV
- Built In WiFi
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- Smart TV

SAVE $300

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*See store for details

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marantz AV RECEIVERS

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NR 1607	$699	SAVE $60
SR 5011	$1199	SAVE $100
SR 6011	$1799	SAVE $100
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marantz MARANTZ NR1606 7.2 CHANNEL FULL 4K ULTRA HD A/V RECEIVER WITH WI-FI AND BLUETOOTH

- 700 Watts of Power
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Pioneer AVH 180 DVD 6.2" DVD Receiver

- 6.2" Display
- Backup Camera Input
- Bluetooth
- 4 x 50 watts

24 Equal PYMNTS, NO INTEREST $9.58 MTH* — $199 — SAVE $140

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This system includes:
- (1) Anthem MRX520 AV Receiver
- (2) Paradigm Monitor II Speakers
- (1) Paradigm Center 3
- (2) Paradigm Surround 3
- (1) Paradigm SUB12
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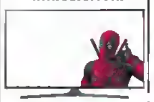
24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SAVE $2720 — 24 Equal PYMNTS, NO INTEREST $208 MTH* — $4999

SAMSUNG KU6300 SERIES 4K TV WITH BLUETOOTH



- 4K UHD Picture Quality
- UHD Dimming
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FOCAL R-690C3-way coaxial kit

- High power handling - 3 ways

Woofer: 6" x 9"
Max. power: 160W
6 ONLY!

BOXING WEEK PRICES — SAVE $100 — $99

DENON AV RECEIVERS

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BOXING WEEK IN STORE DEALS

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AVR-X2300	$799	SAVE $100
AVR-X3300	$999	SAVE $100
AVR-X4300	$1299	SAVE $100
AVR-X6300	$2599	SAVE $100
AVR-X7200	$3599	SAVE $100

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- Passive Noise Isolation
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Fully Automatic Operation
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- 33-1/3 & 45 rpm Speeds
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- Replaceable Stylus Included

24 Equal PYMNTS, NO INTEREST $5.39 MTH* — $129 — SAVE $70

Klipsch RSB-6 SOUNDBAR WITH WIRELESS SUBWOOFER

24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST

- 4K Ultra HD Video pass-through
- Acoustically-converting wireless subwoofer
- Integrates Dolby Audio
- Wireless remote included

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polk 12" High Performance Subwoofer PSW125

- bass-reflex (ported) enclosure
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- 12" front-firing driver

24 Equal PYMNTS, NO INTEREST $12.49 MTH* — $299 — SAVE $200

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- Mobile Device Charging
- 10 Hours Playback
- Ambidextrous Control
- True Wireless Stereo Image
- IPX5 CERTIFIED WATERPROOF

BEST PRICE IN CANADA — SAVE $110 — 24 Equal PYMNTS, NO INTEREST $7.49 MTH* — $179

BRAVEN 705 Wireless BD Bluetooth Portable Speaker

- Stunning Design
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- Built In Microphone & Speaker Phone

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Boxing Week Pricing!

FOCAL Dome Flax 5.1.2.4 DOLBY ATMOS SPEAKER PKG

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Whats in Included
- Dome Flax Satellite Speakers
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- 6.5CMA Level Speaker

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12 ONLY! — SAVE $2250

3400 Watts Dynamic Peak
Powered Ultra Class D Amplifier
12" HCM Low Frequency Driver
Low Frequency Extension 12 Hz

The SUB15's impact was tremendous within the sound subwoofer. Most of music vibration and acoustic rumbling, you really two floors away (noticed by my wife). Wow...

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B STOCK — SAVE $1000 — $2899

marantz SA 1153 CD & Super Audio CD Reference Player

B STOCK — $3499

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SONOS THE WIRELESS HIFI SYSTEM

PLAY 3 Wireless Speaker #1 Selection!

Three custom-designed drivers with dedicated amplifiers
- Control all your music and streaming services from a single app
- Stereo your HDTV. Easy set up

SAVE $50 — $329

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Six custom-designed drivers with dedicated amplifiers
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- Stereo your HDTV. Easy set up

SAVE $91 — $599

Wireless 5.1 Home Theater Package

This Package Includes
- (1) Sonos Playbar
- (1) Sonos Wireless Subwoofer
- (2) Sonos Play 1 Wireless Speaker

24 Equal PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SAVE $200 — $2099

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Sonos includes PLAYBAR and SUB

Components HD television streams with highly detailed, richly textured sound. PLAYBAR delivers powerful, realistic sound to your TV with nine amplified speakers, and doubles as a center speaker for vocal. SUB adds soul-shaking bass with two force-cancelling speakers for deep sound and zero to blast boom or rattle.

#1 SELLING SOUNDBAR — SAVE $100 — $1699

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- Bluetooth Built In
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24 ONLY!

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- 9° - 10° Tilt
- VMF139A

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AT-LP60-USB LP-to-digital recording system

- USB output - converts directly to your computer. Plug & play use Mac and PC compatible
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Marshall Stanmore Bluetooth Wireless Speaker

Classic Marshall design
Bluetooth
Stereo speakers
Vertical control
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Package Includes DOOR CRASHERS

- (1) CLARION CZ 102BT Bluetooth CD Radio
- (1) Rockford MA160X0 60W Watt Power Amp
- (1) Polk Audio DB12400DVC 720 Watt Subwoofer "B Stock"
- (1) Fusion ACFE112 12" Box

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- Powerful Midlife performance
- Less distortion
- 1" aluminum horn-loaded tweeter
- Dual 6" high-output woofers
- Priced & sold as pairs

24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SAVE $800 — $599 PAIR

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WHILE THEY LAST! — SAVE $1200 — SALE PRICING STARTS DEC 20TH — $1499

ProCenter2000 Center Channel Speaker

24 Only! — SAVE $250 — $249

SAMSUNG HW-K950 Dolby ATMOS SOUNDBAR

HOT! HOT! HOT!

24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SAVE $700 — $1299

SALE PRICING STARTS ONLINE DEC 26TH & IN STORE DEC 24TH

SAMSUNG KU7000 SERIES UHD 4K HDTV

- Screen Resolution 3840x2160
- 120 Motion Rate
- UHD Dimming
- HDR Premium, Mega Contrast

SAVE UP TO $500 — 24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SMART TV — 4K ULTRA HD

SALE PRICING STARTS ONLINE DEC 26TH & IN STORE DEC 24TH — $1199 55" — $1999 55"

SAMSUNG KU7500 SERIES UHD 4K CURVED TV

- 120 Motion Rate
- 4K Curved Screen
- HDR Premium, Mega Contrast

SAVE UP TO $600 — 24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — ON SALE 65"

SALE PRICING STARTS DEC 26TH ONLINE & IN STORE DEC 28TH — $1299 55" — $2099 65"

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Because there are many TVs. But there is only one LG OLED.

24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST

- LG G6 65" 4K UHD SMART OLED TV — 4K ULTRA HD OLED HDR with Dolby Vision, Ultra Luminance Plus, 4K Upscaler, Model # 65G6P — SAVE $500 — TOP OF THE LINE — 65" $9999
- LG B6 SERIES 4K UHD SMART OLED TV — 4K Ultra HD OLED 2160p with Dolby Vision/DM, Perfect Black Panel, Full CINEMA Screen Black Glass, Smart TV Webos/Autoflow, 40W 2.2 Channel speaker 3.0, Model # B6 SERIES — SOLD OUT! ORDER TODAY FOR LATE JANUARY DELIVERY! — 6 ONLY! — 55" $3499 — 65" $4999

PRICING AVAILABLE ONLINE DEC 26TH & IN STORE DEC 24TH

SAMSUNG 9800 SERIES 4K SUHD TV

SAVE UP TO $1000

- Curved Smart LED HD TV
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- 3840x2160 Resolution
- WiFi Built In

24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — 24 Equal PAYMENTS of $187.49/MTH — 65" $4499 — 24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — 78" $7999

SALE PRICING STARTS DEC 26TH ONLINE DEC 26TH IN STORE

SONY X800D SERIES 4K HDR ULTRA HD SMART TV

- (UHD)3840x2160 LED Panel
- HDR Support
- Motionflow XR 240 Refresh Rate
- Screen Mirroring Technology Premium Sound
- Android TV with Google Cast, Voice Search & Play Store
- Thousands of Apps on Google Play

HOT! HOT! HOT!

24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — 49" $799 — 55" $899

PRICING STARTS DEC 26TH ONLINE & DEC 26TH IN STORE

SAMSUNG KS8500 SERIES SUHD CURVED HDTV

- Samsung KS8500 Series Smart Curved LED TV
- 4K SUHD Curved LED Panel
- Ultra HD Imagery
- Full web browser
- Screen Mirror Technology
- Access Samsung Smart Hub & Apps

SAVE UP TO $800 — 24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SUHD TV

PRICING STARTS DEC 26TH ONLINE & IN STORE DEC 28TH IN STORE — $1899 55" — $2999 65"

SAMSUNG KS9000 SERIES SUHD SMART HDTV

- Samsung KS9000 Series SUHD 4K LED Smart TV
- Screen mirror technology
- Full web browser
- Built in wifi, bluetooth
- Access Samsung Smart Hub & Apps

SAVE UP TO $2200 — 24 EQUAL PAYMENTS NO INTEREST — SUHD TV — ON SALE 55" — ON SALE 65"

SALE PRICING STARTS ONLINE DEC 26TH & IN STORE DEC 26TH IN STORE — $5999 75"

UH6150 SERIES 4K UHD SMARTTV

- 4K ULTRA HD
- True Motion 120Hz
- WebOS 3.0

SAVE UP TO $500 — 55" $899.99 — 60" ON SALE — 65" $1399.00

SALE PRICING STARTS DEC 26TH ONLINE DEC 26TH IN STORE

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Understand regulations before purchasing drone

RANDY KLAASSEN
Special to the Advance

Niagara District Airport manager Len O'Connor wants Niagara residents to be aware of the safety hazard drones pose to aircraft.

In the past year the airport has been contacted by members of the public and businesses requesting guidance for obtaining authorization to operate a drone both near and away from the airport. Those calling are referred to Transport Canada, who is responsible for the regulations for the use of air space. There is a process to apply for drone operations, says O'Connor.

"It is important for the public to be aware not to fly a drone within nine kilometers of an airport," he said.

From Niagara District Airport that includes most of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and some of the City of St. Catharines.

Anyone giving or receiving a drone as a Christmas present should be aware there are regulations to follow, says O'Connor.

The airport's web page recently had a "No Drone Zone" sign added, which serves as a link to the Transport Canada site regarding drone safety and a list of do's and don'ts.

"Drones and birds are approximately the same size, and if there were a collision with an aircraft it could result in a fatal crash. Just think of the airliner that went down in the Hudson River. That was caused by birds," O'Conner said.

"At the airport, if we see a flock of birds, especially starlings, we are very proactive to send out our staff to chase them away. If we cannot deter the birds, or if there is a drone sighting, we have to close the runways to active aircraft.

"In the last two years we have seen a significant increase in the use of drones. We have found that typically business people using drones are aware of the regulations, but individuals are not. For aircraft safety, a drone is a drone, whether it is used by professionals or by kids."

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has used drones for photographing historical sites or for marketing purposes, and they know the procedures. There are also professionals who use drones for land surveying.

When the airport is contacted about the use of drones within controlled air space, a notice is distributed to pilots concerning the date, time, and specific air space where the drone activity is occurring, says O'Connor.

If a drone is on your Christmas gift list, be aware of the regulations for flying it. If a drone is flown for fun, and weighs 35 kilograms or less, you don't need a permit, but it must be flown responsibly.

Transport Canada says drones should be flown during daylight and in good weather; always keep your aircraft in sight; respect the privacy of others; and don't fly close to airports, in populated areas, near moving vehicles, or higher than 90 meters. Failure to follow Transport Canada's regulations for drone operations may lead to up to $25,000 in fines and/or jail time.

Airport manager Len O'Connor says drones can be hazardous to planes flying in and out of Niagara District Airport

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KARENA WALTER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Volunteers and a crew get set to move a flanger railroad train car at Niagara District AirportFriday. It was being moved to Fort Erie.

Train car on track to railway museum

KARENA WALTER
standard staff

The brittle-looking flanger railroad car at Niagara District Airport has proved it has good bones.

After standing in the same spot motionless for almost 40 years, the 14-ton car remained in tact as it was lifted into the air and onto a flatbed truck Friday.

"Part of the nerve-racking job is done," said Ken Jones, president and founder of the Niagara Railway Museum in Fort Erie, where the car was headed.

"A lot of creaking though."

The railway car has been at the airport since May 1977 when late Genaire founder and train enthusiast Gerry Wooll had it moved to the aerospace company's grounds.

It was placed on a piece of track and used as a novelty meeting room outside the factory building.

In recent years, though, the car wasn't getting much use and is showing its age from the outdoor elements. The interior was very hot or cold depending on the season and was often infested with bees in the spring.

Wooll's daughter Lorraine Warner decided to donate it to the Niagara Railway Museum, whose members held a meeting there last year.

"Because it was deteriorating, I thought that my dad, who purchased it in the first place and loved trains, would not be happy," Warner said, explaining he would prefer it be preserved by the museum.

"They said they'd love to have it."

The car's location at the airport meant it couldn't just be moved at the last minute — the airport commission had to be involved.

Lisa Juras, ground maintenance supervisor at Niagara District Airport, said the crane's height could interfere with airspace so they had to issue a Notice to Airmen, or NOTAM. The notice lets pilots and other airports know that something is happening at the airport that could be a safety issue.

Volunteers from the museum and Genaire helped get the flanger car fitted with slings under its body so it could be lifted by a 70-ton crane onto the flatbed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Car to be restored and used for meetings, parties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

"If you guys hear any popping, crackling, anything that doesn't sound good, tell me to stop," the crane operator from Amerhert told the group.

A section of nearby Genaire fence was removed by volunteers from Peninsula Construction so the flatbed truck could back up parallel to the train car.

Airport staff then escorted the flatboard through its property leading to the tee-hangers and a back gate.

The route was chosen because the alternative was to drive over a ditch and watermain.

"This is easier, flatter, better," Juras said.

"Genaire helps the airport. The airport helps Genaire."

The 15-foot-tall train car had to be transported on back roads because it was too high for the QEW underpasses on the flatbed.

The four-ton wheel sets were transported separately.

The museum, which will be celebrating 20 years in 2017, is a registered charitable organization.

The flanger will join another 20 pieces of equipment, including steam, diesel and electric locomotives in the former CNR diesel shop on Warren Street. There are also items from the former Niagara Central Hobbies in downtown St. Catharines, like the old trolley coffee bar, baggage cart and train layout with end cabinets.

The museum's newest acquisition will provide a 30-foot long empty space that Jones said they can use for meeting space, kids' birthday parties and other gatherings.

Volunteers will refurbish the interior and exterior to its original look.

Jones said it cost more than $4,000 for the move and they're hoping for donations for the restoration. "The deterioration has set in but at least now we can control it. It will be inside," he said. "Once we can get in there and evaluate things, we'll have a better idea about restoration."

The museum is open every Saturday from May to October and hosts three large open houses. More information is at www.nfrm.ca.

kwalter@postmedia.com

KARENA WALTER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Lorraine Warner takes a photo as her late father's flanger railroad car is lifted off its wheels at Niagara District Airport for transport to the Niagara Railway Museum in Fort Erie.

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Rotary house tour another great success

ELIZABETH TAYLOR
Special to the Advance

Last week the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club held its 18th annual holiday house tour, with six festively decorated private homes in addition to the traditional annual sites on the tour.

In past years the tour has raised more than $650,000, funding which has supported community projects such as the YWCA and Syrian refugee support.

"We have been doing very well. It has become our biggest fundraiser," said Don MacDonald, a member on the steering committee of the house tour.

CONTINUED > PAGE 32

ELIZABETH TAYLOR/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Hawley House in the Village was decorated for the festive season as part of the Rotary Holiday House Tour.

The Gallery Players of Niagara *presents* Glissandi

A Celtic Christmas

Jain Glissandi and Guy Bannerman for an enchanting evening of haunting meladies, and heart-warming stories. The rich and soulful music af Ireland, Wales and the Scattish Highlands, reflects the magical charm of the haliday seasan. This annual event has became a papular seasanal highlight.

DEC. 22, 2016 4:00 pm
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DEC. 23, 2016 7:30 pm
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The board includes representation from housing providers, regional council, tenants and the general public.

Special consideration will be given to those with financial experience and/or an understanding of the legal environment, social policy development, contract evaluation, government relations and human resources. As our clients represent a diverse array of multi-cultural groups, experience with various ethnic groups would also be considered an asset.

Applications are available at www.nrh.ca or by calling Regional Councillor Paul Grenier, NRH Chair at 905-980-6000 x 3965. The deadline for submissions is January 13, 2017. We thank all interested parties; but only those being considered for positions will be contacted.

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Some sites welcome visitors every year

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 30

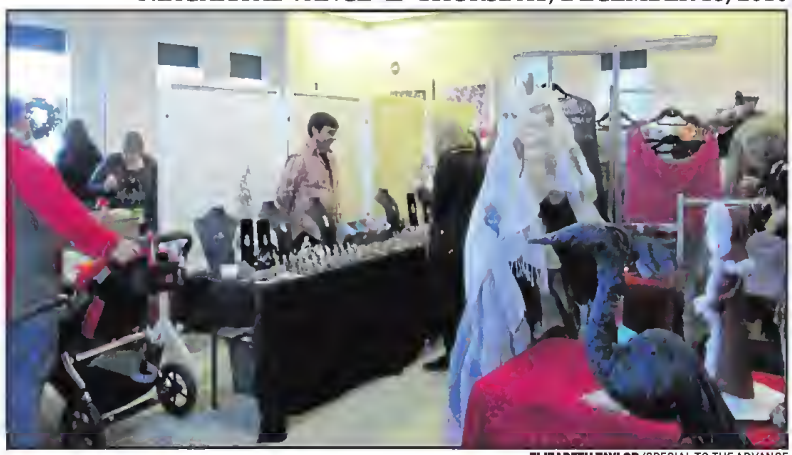
Volunteers at the decorated houses welcomed visitors, with decorating done by community organizations. The Charlou house decorated by Mori Gardens, Garden Design and had one of the longer queues. The Hawley house, which was converted from a century-old barn, still retains its country charm. The hand-hewn beams and tall ceilings tied in well with decorations done by the Refuge Antiques and Giftery.

The annual sites, such as the Niagara Pumphouse, welcomed visitors to enjoy their cheerfully decorated space and small market of gifts hand made by artisans.

"The museum, the art gallery (Riverbrink) and the Pumphouse have been auxiliary sites from almost the beginning," MacDonald said about the history of the house tour. Also among the auxiliary sites on the tour were McFarland House and St. Andrew's Church.

A special treat for house tour patrons was a visit to the Peller Estates Winery, which included ice wine and ice wine chocolate tasting. The inside of the building was beautifully decorated with many traditional holiday favorites such as wreaths, a cozy fireplace and a grand Christmas tree. At the end of the tasting house tour visitors were also offered a complimentary turkey pot pie from the restaurant.

The weekend was beautiful for the tour and a start to the holiday season, complimented by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce annual candlelight stroll.



ELIZABETH TAYLOR/SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Local artisans sold their work at the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre last weekend. The art centre was participating in the Rotary Holiday House Tour.

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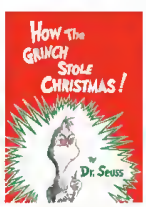

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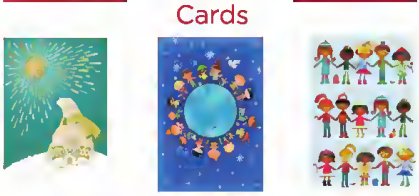

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Add to that Tara Rosling of Shaw Festival fame, described by her peers as one of Canada's best actresses, telling a story based on a haunting British folk tale, everyone leaning forward on the edge of their seats because they don't want to miss a word of the dramatic, dark adults-only mystery about a woman who plays a dangerous game of hide and seek witb her busband on their wedding night.

Rosling is presenting what is billed as a theatrical reading of the Mistletoe Bride, a short story by Jeanette Winterson adapted by Shaw director Peter Hinton.

When Rosling and Hinton first decided on a project they wanted to do together two years ago, they decided the local brewing company with the old-fashioned pub ambience was the perfect place for it, and approached co-owner Pontsioen to know if they could use the premises for their reading. He didn't know what to expect - he was a little confused about what they were going to do, he admits - but agreed.

CONTINUED > PAGE 35

PENNY COLES/NIAGARA ADVANCE

Chris Pontsioen of Silversmith Brewery and actress Tara Rosling toast the success of past readings of the Mistletoe Bride and prepare for performances over three nights next week.

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'Beautiful, poetic' wintry tale presented as one-woman show

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 34

The beer hall, which holds only 50 people, quickly became so crowded they had to turn people away, and they decided on the spot to hold a second reading later in the evening.

Pontsioen says that reading was so much more than he expected - and although he's now heard it several times, it just keeps getting better.

The audience gets right into it, everyone listening so intently when Rosling begins to speak "you can hear a pin drop," he said.

Rosling says Silversmith provides a perfect, intimate setting for the event.

"It's a beautiful story," she says. "Very poetic and very mysterious. There is so much ambience here that's well-suited to the story, which also addresses contemporary issues."

"The first time I heard the story I thought it was going to be Tara just reading," said Pontsioen, "but she does so much more than that. It's definitely a performance, a one-woman show. It's a really unique event."

The atmosphere, he describes, "is very cool," perfect for a ghost story, and while listening to Rosling it's easy to feel you've been transported back in time, with this dark, eerie story being told in the candlelight with shadows on the walls - much like sitting around a camp fire, only in the warmth, with beer being served.

"It's the kind of show that gives you goose bumps," he says. "I've seen it all six times and I feel the same way each time. Every reading is a little different. I'm really looking forward to this year's performances."

The event has gone from two readings on one night the first year, to two readings on two nights the second year, to three readings over three evenings planned next week.

Two readings on one night means the audience is ushered out quickly to make room for the next one, says Pontsioen - the goal this year is to have time for people to stay and chat about the experience. The reading itself is just half an hour.

There is no admission charge, but a hat will be passed for donations to Gillian's Place.

The first year $700 was raised, the second year, $1,700.

Mistletoe Bride will be presented Monday, Dec. 19, Tuesday, Dec. 20 and Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Seating is limited, and this year Silversmith is taking reservations so nobody goes home disappointed - call 905-468-8447.

The Shaw Festival presents
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Fake or real debate continues with fresh trees holding their own

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

As the debate between real and artificial Christmas trees continues, the two Lions Clubs in town are not seeing any decrease in sales.

Both clubs were expecting to be sold out by this weekend - the NOTL Lions Club, selling theirs at Niagara Fruit and Vegetables in Virgil, had only 17 of their 330 trees left Monday.

St. Davids Lions received 500 trees to sell, and had only 37 left Monday.

NOTL Lion John Skubel was delighted with the success - and speed - of the sale, but couldn't put his finger on why this was such a banner year.

"Everyone just seemed to be really in the Christmas spirit," he said.

Skubel was converted to buying a real tree when he got married, and now he says fresh is the only way to go.

He likes the fragrance of a real tree, and the fun of putting it up - it's easy enough to make a fresh cut and put it in the stand, he says, and as long as it's watered and lights aren't left on, there's little mess and no safety hazard.

Then, after Christmas, it's easy enough to drag it out to the curb to be picked up and recycled.

And funds raised at both Lions Clubs' Christmas tree sales will go back into the community through various Lions-supported charities and organizations, local and international.

Although environmentalists sometimes point to the needless cutting of a tree, he believes a real tree is the environmentally-friendly choice - it gets chipped for mulch after it's picked up at the curb, and Christmas tree farms are always replanting.

It's the plastic trees that are bad for the environment, he said.

"They last about five years and then they end up in the dump. And they're there for a very long time."

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, every acre of planted Christmas trees produces enough daily oxygen for 18 people. Christmas tree farms cover 14,715 acres of land across Ontario.

Ontario's Christmas tree industry employs thousands of workers in the farming, transportation and retail sectors, and generates $11.3 million in sales annually. There are 647 Christmas tree farms in the Greenbelt and across the province, which sustainably produce more than one million Christmas trees each year, while planting the same number of seedlings for future harvests.

But Fire Chief Alex Burbidge feels real trees can be a fire hazard, if they're not watered regularly right up until it's time to take them to the curb.

Some people are very attentive at first, but tend to forget once Christmas day has passed, he said.

Some safety tips from the fire chief:

* Before you put a tree up give the base a fresh cut to allow it to take up the water that you are going to put in the base.

*Avoid putting your tree near a heat source. Forced air and radiant heating can speed up its drying.

CONTINUED > PAGE 37

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Locals purchasing trees from St. Davids Lions Club are helping their community.

Watering tree is essential to keep it fresh and safe

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 36

*Use only CSA or recognized quality lighting and extension cords. The new LED lights give off very little heat. Don't run extension cords under carpets or in areas where they might get compressed or pinched.

*Make sure your base is solid and has a large water reservoir.

*Do not block halls or exits with the tree.

*Do not use real candles. This goes for garlands and mantle toppers as well as Christmas trees. Any time you put open flame near a real tree you are asking for trouble.

*Water, water, water. Your tree requires water to keep it fresh. Try to remove the tree as soon as you can after Christmas as we sometimes lose our motivation to water once Christmas day is over.

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Christmas Carol reading at St. Mark's Church

PENNY COLES
Niagara Advance

It's been two decades since volunteers from the Shaw Festival community began banishing humbug from the holidays with an annual dramatic reading of A Christmas Carol - always to benefit a local charity.

New to the performance this year is Tim Carroll, who took over from Jackie Maxwell as artistic director of the Shaw Festival.

Peter Millard, an ensemble member, has played Scrooge several times, and has taken on other roles as well, but in recent years has been the director and co-ordinator of the event.

The cast changes every year, and sometimes up to the last minute, as Shaw staff volunteer their time.

"We're grateful to all those who jump into the ring to do this. We don't always know who is available, since it's all volunteer work, and we're never sure who is going to be around at this time of year."

CONTINUED > PAGE 40

Peter Millard begs Peter Krantz (Scrooge) to accept a Christmas gift, but Scrooge is still at his bah-humbug stage of viewing Christmas. The two Shaw Festival actors are part of a dramatic reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, which will be performed at St. Mark's Church at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.

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Christmas Day @ 10:00 am

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www.stmarks1792.com

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Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525
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10:30 am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
Come & Worship:
Pour Out Your Heart
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

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Pastor Rick Mills
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Pastors: David Lewis & Stephen Cox

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADVANCE Notices

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Thurs., Dec. 15 ~ 4:30-7:30 pm
Resuming: Thurs., Jan. 5, 2017 ~ 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Thank you all for another successful year of Fish Fry Thursdays.
New Members Welcome
Royal Canadian Legion ~ Branch # 124
410 King St., NOTL ~ Hall Rental Available - 905-468-2353

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CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 6:30 pm ~ CAROL SINGING
CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 7:00 pm ~ CHORAL EUCHARIST
CHRISTMAS DAY ~ 10:00 am ~ HOLY EUCHARIST
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10:00 am ~ HOLY EUCHARIST
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(take out available)
1-Pc $8, 2-Pc $11
Price includes: Coleslaw, bread, french fries, baked potato, coffee/tea. Alcohol Available.
Fish Fry
Leave the cooking to us!
Lions Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St.Davids
Next FISH FRY, Friday, January 6, 2017 ~ 4:30 - 7 pm

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Starting January 11 for 8 weeks
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www.acbl.org

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info@notlnewcomers.com

Place your Coming Event / Community Calendar Social here, with or without a border, Colour, Graphics optional. Include your Logo!
Deadline: Monday 3 pm ~ Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102
Early Holiday Deadline for December 29th is Friday, December 23rd - 12 pm

Local girls have hair cut for cash

PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Michael Catholic Elementary School Principal Blaine MacDougall watches as students Juvea Mastromatteo and her sister Nieva Mastomatteo have their hair cut to donate to Wigs for Kids. Cutting their hair, with help from brother Roc Mastromatteo, is Sandra Cocetti, owner of Bliss Hair Salon in Virgil. The girls started a Cut for Cash fundraiser at the school and in two weeks raised more than $800. Cocetti cut 10 inches of Nieva's hair and 11 inches of Juvea's, with students watching and taking part in the process. After the assembly, Cocetti took the two girls back to her salon for a clean-up, at no charge, making sure the girls looked beautiful.

Volunteer performance to benefit Newark Neighbours

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 38

This season's reading will include also include Guy Bannerman, Donna Belleville, Diana Donnelly and Peter Krantz.

Musical performances will feature Gabrielle Jones, Shanna Taillon, Williamn Vickers and St. Mark's music director Michael Tansley.

The reading takes place Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Tickets are $15 for adults, and $8 for children.

Advance tickets are available at the Shaw Festival box office at 1-800-511-SHAW, at St. Mark's church office and at the door, beginning one hour prior to event.

Proceeds go to a different charity every year, and this performance will benefit Newark Neighbours Thrift Store and Food Bank.

Classifieds

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Seasonal/Temporary

Pillitteri Estates Winery, 1696 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, **Seeking Full-time Farm Labourer** for tender fruit vineyard. $11.40/hr, seasonal, minimum 40 hrs per week, starts immediately in Virgil Ontario. Duties include Hoeing, suckering, shoot and fruit thinning, planting, loading, harvesting, tying bird netting, day/night, weekends. Physically demanding, fast-paced environment, work under pressure, tight deadlines, repetitive tasks, handling heavy loads, attention to detail, hand eye coordination, ability to distinguish between colours. Standing / walking / bending / crouching / kneeling / balancing on tall ladders with heavy loads for extended periods. Outdoor, heights, wet / damp / noisy / odors / dusty / hot / cold, various locations in Virgil area, numeracy, communication, working with others, problem solving, decision making, significant use of memory. Experience an asset. Please call 905-468-3147, fax 905-468-0389, email farmlabour@pillitteri.com or mail 1696 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, L0S 1J0 to apply.

SEASONAL Full - Time Farm Workers needed from approx. March 25 - to end of Sept. 2017. Must heve valid SIN # & enjoy working in en agricultural environment in all weather conditions. Must be available 7 days a week. Heavy lifting & ledder climbing will be required. Duties elso includes pruning, weeding, hoeing, picking strawberries (6 weeks) peaches (thinning and picking) and thinning, picking plums. Pey is et minimum wege, $11.40/hr & own transportation is a must. Fax resume to 905-688-3503; Konik Farms.
Only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted

Seasonal Full-Time Farm Workers required in St. Catharines April to September. Pruning, thinning and harvesting fruits. Heevy lifting, working et heights, ell weather conditions. 7 days. Own transportation. Minimum wage: $11.40/hour.
Fax resumes with references to 905-682-4020

Seasonal Full-Time Farm Workers required in NOTL from March-Oct. Must be able to work long hours 7 days a week in ell weether. Job is physicelly demending involves pruning, thinning, packing, picking peaches and climbing up & down a ladder. Must be able to communicate in English. Job pays minimum wage, $11.40 per hour. Previous experience preferred. Please send resume to: Royelview Orcherds 1430 Line 6 Niegere-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

Public Notices

WINNERS of the Queenston Volunteer FireFighters Association Christmas Basket Reffle ere: 1st: Deve Colemen; 2nd: Pevel Varadinek; 3rd: John Reiter; 4th: Jon Horbach and 5th: Amber Klassen.

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Seasonal/Temporary

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Fax resume to: 905-358-7600.
ATTN: Vineyerd Meneger

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

As of December 1, 2016, the corporations of 425673 Ontario Limited and 1254371 Ontario Limited intend to emelgamete into one corporation effective December 31, 2016 in accordance with The Ontario Business Act. Any creditor of either corporation is hereby given notice that they heve 30 days to object in writing to this emelgametion.

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Public Notices

DECEMBER 29, 2016 Deadline
Editorial Content:
Thursday, December 22nd ~ 12 pm
Retail & Classified ads:
Friday, December 23rd ~ 12 pm

JANUARY 5, 2017 Deadline
Editorial Content:
Thursday, December 29th ~ 12 pm
Retail & Classified ads:
Friday, December 30th ~ 12 pm

If you would like to place an ad or speak with the Editor please call 905-468-3283 Ext. 101 for retail; 102 for classified or 103 for editorial content. Please leave a message and we will call you back.

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday!

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Public Notices

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the Niagera Historicel Society & Museum annual wine raffle. First prize went to Ann Handels of NOTL end second prize to Sharon Beiley of NOTL. Thank you to everyone who donated to the reffle!

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Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More

Obituaries

ROZITIS, Eva Lynn - Passed away on Monday, November 14, 2016, et the young age of 26, far before her time. Beloved partner of Andrew Hurst, dear daughter of Peter Rozitis and Sharon Whittaker (Robert Andrews), granddaughter of Gerald Whittaker & the late Aline Whittaker, Alfreds and Mary Rozitis of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Much loved sister of Kathryn, Erin (Mike Brabant) and Lidija. Missed greatly by her Aunts & Uncles, Brian Whittaker (Diana), Susan Schmidt (David), John Rozitis and Daina Rozitis, and cousins Benjamin Schmidt (Christine) and Jonathan Mostovoy. As well, her nieces and nephew will miss her. Born in Niagara, raised near Georgian Bay, and registered in the Practical Nursing Program at Georgian College, a beautiful woman, inside and out, Eva embraced life with enthusiasm and a contagious smile. She was an inspiration, giving generously from her heart and touching many lives. She spent her adult years following her passions through sports, study, nature & spirituality. Her love & support of people, cultures & pets (Archie, Nimki & Ebs) gave her peaca & joy. Interment was held at Lakeview Cemetery on November 26th, followed by a Celebration of Life at Ste. Merie Among the Hurons on November 27th, both in Midland. As an expression of sympathy and in memory of Eva, donations may be made to Chigamik Community Health Centre of Midland, for the community development and mental health support they provide.

In Memoriams

In Loving Memory

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TELFORD, Ruby - Passed away peacefully on Wednesday December 7, 2016 at the age of 88 years. Wife of the late Leslie Telford (2007). Beloved mother of Graham (2018) & Melanie Telford, David & (Karen) Telford and Jane (Randy) Clattenburg. She was a proud grandmother of Benjamin, Colin (Amanda), Stephen and Ian Telford, Elissa, Seth & Hannah Telford: Emma (Andrew) Hildebrand, Levi & Maya Clattenburg. Great-Grandmother to Alexander Telford and Zoe Hildebrand. Also survived by her brothers Alex (Peggy) Graham and David (Isobel) Graham. Cremation with private arrangements. Special thanks to the staff at Bella Senior Care in Chippawa. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Niagara. Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

Memorial Services

Memorial Service

for

ROBERT JABEZ LEWIS

will be held on December 20, 2018 at 2 pm at St. Mark's Church, 41 Byron St., NOTL. I wish to express immense gratitude & heartfelt thanks to our many friends and neighbours for the tremendous support I received while Bob was hospitalized. The many cards, beautiful flowers, visits and meals meant so much to me.

Bob will live in our hearts forever.

Charlotte

WIENS, Henry Jacob - It is with sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our father, with family by his side, on Monday, December 12, 2016 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 95. Husband of Jeannie Wiens. Loving father of Angelika (Scot) Whitham, Margret Wiens and John (Jill) Wiens. Dear Opa of Robert (Amm) Zablocki, Chad (Severn) McMillan, Vanessa (David) Lester, Todd (Kristen) McMillan, Justin (Megan) Wiens, Jordan (Laura) Wiens, Jeniah Wiens, and Uhr Opa to 10 great grandchildren. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, family and friends. Predeceased by his sister Eva Marie Wiebe. Henry was a member of the Niagara Credit Union- member credit council for 28 years, of which 24 were as chairman, T.V. Ontario- 9 year Director, 2 years, financial director, Shaw Festival- 6 years Director of Planning and then Vice Chairman of Community relations, Niagara Township-13 years on the Planning Board and 5 years on the committee of edjustment, Virgil Business Men's Association- Founding Member, director, and 2 years President and Bethany Mennonite Church member. The family will receive friends at **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME**, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held at Bethany Mennonite Church, 572 East and West Line, Virgil, on Friday, December 16, 2016 at 11 a.m. Cremation to follow. For those who wish, memorial donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, would be appreciated by the family. Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

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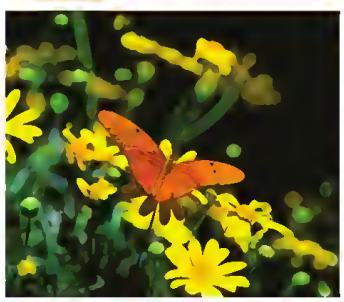
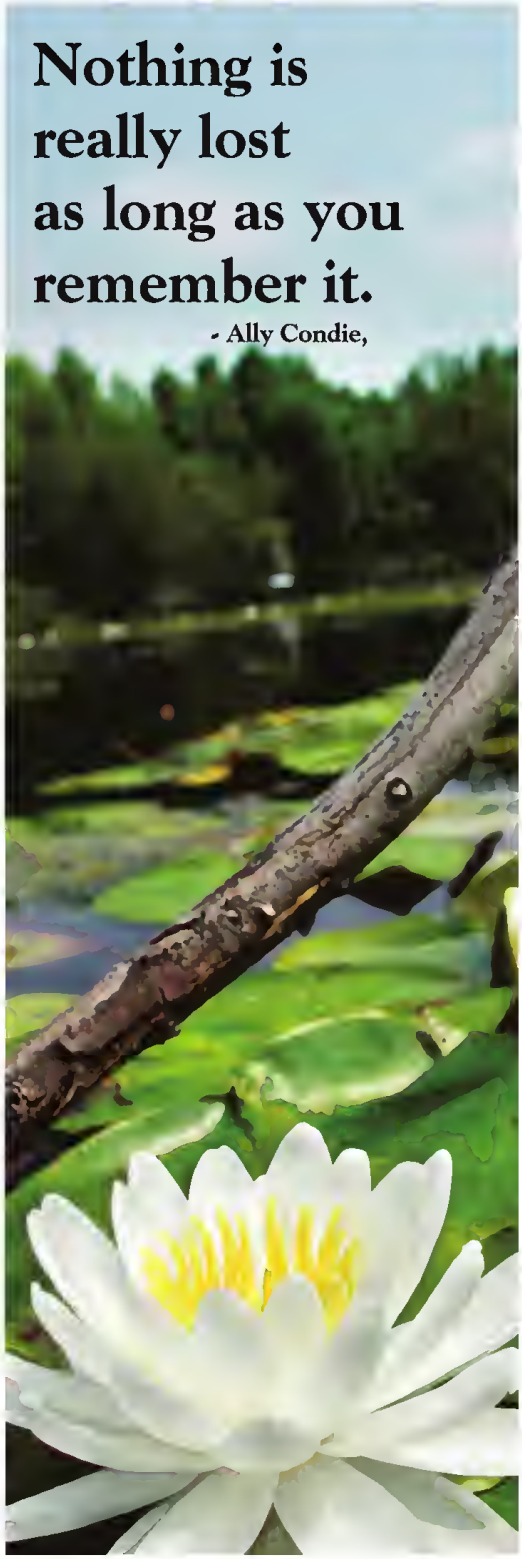




Pay your respects... on yourlifemoments.ca

Nostalgic Christmas musical at Cork's

JOHN LAWS
Postmedia Network

Niagara Falls singer/actress Rachel Delduca has seen Christmas shows that left her feeling less than festive.

Rather than go see another this year, she decided to do one of her own.

Along with boyfriend Roberto Ercoli and the Shaw Festival's Emily Lukasik, she's mounting her own nostalgic Christmas special at Cork's Playhouse Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Happening Dec. 16 and 17, Once Upon a December will make the best of her 'triple threat' talent – singer, actress and dancer – for a night of old fashioned Holiday entertainment.

"I've (always) wanted to do a show like this, just pure sweet music in an intimate space," says the 23-year-old Saint Paul high school grad. "It's a little old fashioned, classic."

"I love Christmas. I get super excited when the Christmas music comes on the radio."

Delduca was among the first to graduate Sheridan College with a Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance in 2015, which led to a gig earlier this year performing for Disney Cruise Lines. For six months, sailing the Caribbean, she would do a one-hour production of Aladdin every night, along with a musical revue with other Disney characters.

Yes, it was fun. No, it wasn't a holiday.

"Everyone was like 'Oh, a dream come true!' Yeah, it was, but I wasn't on vacation."

She also performed with Brampton's Rose Theatre for a summer production of Much Ado About Nothing last summer, where she met current beau Ercoli.

An accomplished musician, he works for Toronto's Classical Theatre Project which brings Shakespeare shows to high school students.

Delduca works with Burlington's Fantasy Fables, which has her perform as classic Disney heroines at a variety of events.

"I'll be booked to go to a little girl's birthday and I'll be dressed as Elsa or Rapunzel or Cinderella or someone," she says. "I'll be the little entertainer for an hour."

For her Christmas show, Delduca will dust off favourites like O Holy Night and Song For a Winter's Night, along with more obscure tracks like Once Upon a December from the animated movie Anastasia.

She wanted to do the show in Niagara Falls but couldn't find an appropriate venue. Having performed at Cork's for The Rocky Horror Show, she knew the cozy space would be ideal.

Now she faces the unknown – who (and how many) will show up.

"Honestly, the show's going to be what it is. No matter who is in the audience, we're still going to do our show. I'm really happy with what has come out of it."

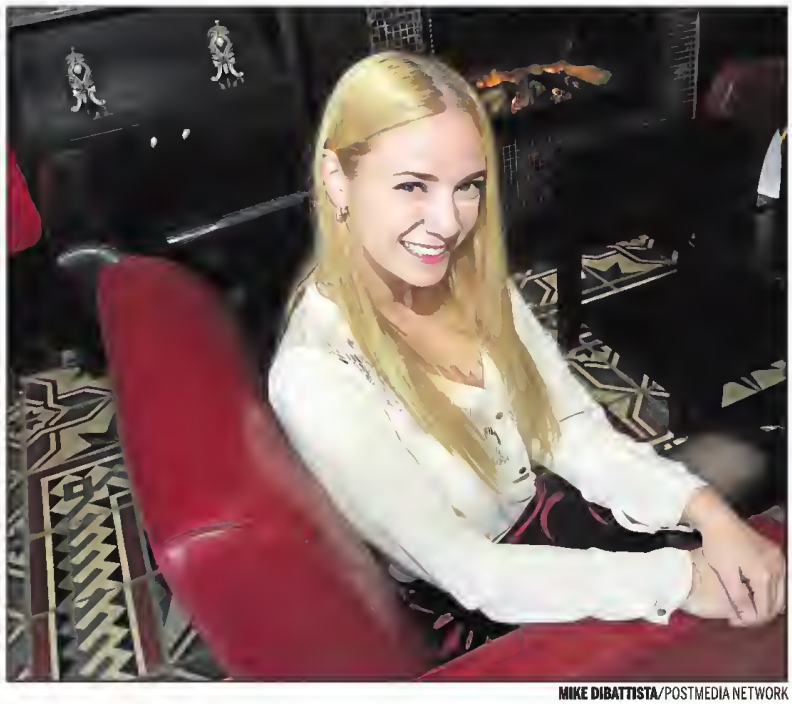
WHO: Rachel Delduca & Roberto Ercoli, with Emily Lukasik

WHAT: Once Upon a December

WHERE: Cork's Theatre Playhouse; 19 Queen Street; Niagara-on-the-Lake

WHEN: Dec. 16 & 17, 8 p.m.

TICKETS: $20 www.racheldelduca.com



MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Falls singer/actress Rachel Delduca is putting on a nostalgic Christmas special. Once Upon a December will open at Cork's Playhouse Theatre in NOTL Dec. 16 and 17.

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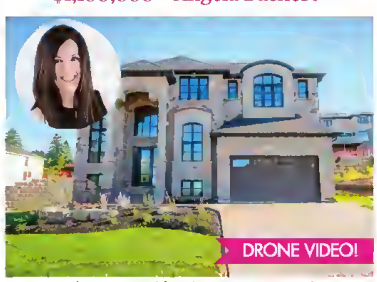

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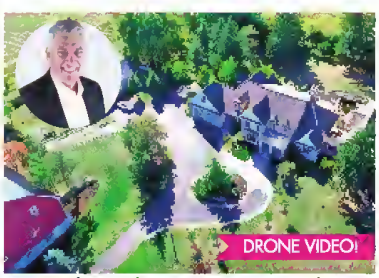

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